

VAE Group awarded CEO Safety Award



The Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) would like to congratulate VAE Group on being awarded our 2018 CEO Safety Award.

The CEO's Safety Award is awarded to a contractor company who best meets BAC's safety vision and values, as nominated by a BAC staff member. Specifically, this is about delivering world best health and safety outcomes that:

- are unique, excellent and innovative;
- are building on collaborative relationships with genuine consultation and partnership;
- demonstrate BAC's commitment to a positive safety culture; and
- enable service excellence.

VAE are currently engaged to design and upgrade the air conditioning units in multiple plant rooms on Level 3 and upgrade the air distribution network on Level 2 of the Brisbane Airport Domestic Terminal.

VAE were chosen to receive this award for the innovation and personal commitment shown by VAE's project manager, James Szach, by introducing a safety procedure adopted from the Take 5 process to engage workers on all levels to take responsibility for their own safety.

From the beginning of the project, BAC engaged with VAE's Project Manager, James Szach, to implement a Take 5 safety policy for the duration of the works. James took this request to their safety manager for review and consideration. Though VAE identified this process to be reasonably different from their current approved safety procedures they found a way to implement certain elements of the Take 5 procedure and introduced it as part of the pre-start toolbox talks.

This entailed a procedure whereby each worker identified the top hazards as part of the works scheduled for the shift. The objective of this was to engage with the individual workers to take ownership of their personal safety. The outcome was monitored and assessed throughout the construction phase.

This safety procedures demonstrated its efficacy when two non-construction workers entered the work site without following the required procedure. A sheet metal worker noticed the presence of the two occupants and immediately suspended works in the plant room and informed the two occupants that they have entered a VAE work site and that they need to wait until the VAE project manager can arrange the required PPE for them and escort them safely to their destination.

Congratulations to James and the VAE team, for this well-deserved award.